

**SOUTH FORK
CO-OPERATIVE
WEED MANAGEMENT
AREA
2003-YEAR END REPORT**



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INTRODUCTION

The South Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area (SFCWMA) has completed its third year of projects. It was established to bring local agencies, landowners, and other interested parties responsible or interested in weed management together to develop common management objectives, facilitate treatment, and co-ordinate treatment efforts. Co-operators will jointly:

- Co-ordinate the use of resources and manpower
- Implement control priorities by treating individual weed infestations using an integrated approach
- Continue monitoring and treatments if needed, of previous treatment areas
- Facilitate weed control treatments and education to several communities

The U. S. Forest Service Mountain Home Ranger District, Fairfield Ranger District, Bureau of Land Management, State Department of Lands, as well as private landowners all own and manage properties within the SFCWMA.

Noxious weed infestations within the SFCWMA of the most concern include Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Rush Skeletonweed, and some Scotch Thistle.

Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed infestations are throughout the CWMA with major infestations occurring below the Anderson Ranch Reservoir, around Paradise Hot Springs, and in the Prairie Community.

Infestations of Leafy Spurge occur along the South Fork of the Boise River and it's tributaries.

Rush Skeletonweed is found throughout most of the CWMA with high concentrations in several areas.

Scotch Thistle occurs in isolated patches throughout the CWMA.

The SFCWMA is a co-operative effort including the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Elmore and Camas County Weed Control, US Forest Service, Mountain Home and Glenns Ferry Highway Districts, Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, and various private landowners. Funding has been obtained from the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Elmore and Camas County Weed Control, US Forest Service, and Idaho Department of Lands.

Contributions of labor and equipment have been acquired from the above named and various private landowners.

SUMMARY of 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SFCWMA successfully completed 5 projects this year which include the following:

- Pine/Featherville Weed Awareness Spray Day
- Prairie Weed Awareness Spray Day
- Certified Hay Exchange
- YCC Youth Group
- Equipment Purchase

Planning meetings were held with the steering committee to evaluate and determine the success of the previous years projects and additional improvements that could be added for greater success. Objectives were education of landowners and treatments of weed infestations that are spreading onto wildlife areas as well as treating roadways to cut down on spreading of noxious weeds from infested areas. Education to communities that are experiencing new growth and added recreational traffic were also addressed.

Co-operation was key and very successful for completion of this year's projects.

The new youth project (YCC) that was added this year utilized skills from a trained social worker that brought enthusiasm and experience to work with youth from the community. The project was doubly rewarding as the work outlined was completed and we had the opportunity to educate potential future leaders in our community about the importance of environment, noxious weed control and responsibility to our surroundings, our neighbors and ourselves.

The Community Weed Awareness Spray Days bring about a feeling of cohesiveness as landowners and agencies combine in a common goal of noxious weed control and education. Shoulder to shoulder hands on efforts make this a tangible experience that pull resources and knowledge together for successful outcomes. Positive feedback has been a result of making a united "can do" effort rather than a "must do" order.

This year's hay exchange incorporated local 4-H youth to learn about noxious weeds and their impact on wildlife habitat. They helped at the check station by loading hay and giving out noxious weed information (with the opportunity of learning from other agency people that were on hand.) They were able to witness the actual amount of hunters and traffic that go onto Forestlands and see the potential ways that noxious weeds are spread, not only with hay going onto the forest but ATV's that are now being heavily used for hunting. They had the opportunity to become "Smokey the Bear" and wave to passing motorists, and visit with those that stopped at the checkpoint.

PINE/FEATHERVILLE WEED AWARENESS SPRAY DAY

The SFCWMA is working to educate landowners on local noxious weeds and gain control of Knapweed and Leafy Spurge infestations in this area.

Some of the major concerns are:

- Influx of new recreation homes being built that have out of state owners
- Increase of recreational traffic to the area due to road improvements, spreading noxious weeds
- Spreading of noxious weeds to forestlands via ATV's

The SFCWMA gave noxious weed identification presentations to two separate home- owners associations and set up a spray day where chemical, back packs, gloves and instruction were given to landowners to spray weeds on their property. With the purchase of a 200- gallon mobile spray tank landowners were able to treat larger areas. After inspection of land, Bio control agents, instruction, and chemical were given to a major landowner manager to combat Leafy Spurge along the river.

A return follow-up day was completed where roadside spraying was done and additional contact with landowners along the road was accomplished with the help of a local resident.

This is a rapidly growing area that needs continued education and monitoring to combat weed spread. We are hoping to include other sub-divisions next year and focus on the Featherville infestations of Knapweed.

**PINE/FEATHERVILLE
WEED AWARENESS DAY**
2003
Pine Senior Citizens Center Parking Lot
Saturday, June 28, 2003 - 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

The South Fork CWMA is again offering a "Weed Awareness Day" in the Pine/Featherville area. Provided will be 3-4 gallons of mixed herbicide along with backpacks if needed, to landowners that wish to spray noxious weeds on their property. This is a cost share project where in landowners provide the labor and the South Fork CWMA provide the chemical.

To sign up please contact Stacie at the Elmore County Extension Office at #587-2136 ext. 252 or Leroy Bentzinger at #653-2350.

PRAIRIE WEED AWARENESS SPRAY DAY

The SFCWMA repeated the Weed Awareness Spray Day at the community of Prairie where chemical, backpacks, gloves and instruction were given to landowners to treat noxious weeds on their property. Co-operators included Elmore County, Mountain Home Ranger District, Department of Lands, and various landowners. Knapweed infestations are the first concern in this area; also present in lesser degrees are Hoary Cress, Rush Skeletonweed, Bindweed and Scotch Thistle. Prairie is a ranching community and therefore treatment areas were larger with landowners bringing ATV's and larger spray equipment to the project. It was felt that getting more landowners educated and licensed to spray restricted use herbicides would help combat the Knapweed and RSW that are a growing concern. A training and testing date was set up wherein 10 private landowners attended from the Prairie community. Nine out of the ten passed the testing and received licenses for RU chemicals.

Due to the co-operation of agencies from the CWMA, a roadside spraying contract was also set up between the Forest Service and Elmore County where treatment of RSW was done for the first time on one of the roads leading into Prairie. Follow up roadside spot spraying was also done in the area. Projection for 2004 will include a co-operative roadside spraying project on a previously untreated area from Prairie to Blacks Creek. Co-operators

will include Elmore County, Forest Service, and Mountain Home Highway District.



CERTIFIED HAY EXCHANGE

The SFCWMA provided certified weed free hay for purchase or exchange bale for bale for hunters going onto forestlands. The exchange was advertised in the local paper and a raffle was held to encourage participation in the hay exchange. For each bale of hay exchanged, participants received one ticket in the raffle. Items available for raffle included a Buck-hunting knife engraved with "South Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area" on it, and a sharpening stone with oil. Cotton gloves were also given to those who wanted them. Two ton of hay was purchased or exchanged over the month of October and November for deer and elk hunters. A check station was set up at the intersection on Highway 20 and Pine/Featherville Road on the night before and opening day where hay and information was available. Signs had been permanently posted on forestlands stating the fact that certified hay was mandatory for use as feed on forestlands. A uniformed Forest Service Officer was on site to stress the use of weed free hay and check certified hay tags. Local 4-H members were at the check- point to help off load hay and give out noxious weed information.

In addition they got the chance to turn into "Smokey Bear". Homemade muffins, hot chocolate and coffee were offered to hunters coming through the checkpoint. Signs were posted notifying the on coming traffic of the checkpoint. Hay was also stored at the Y-Stop store in Prairie and available through the month of November to hunters coming onto the forest from the Boise side.



YCC YOUTH GROUP

This was the first year for this project. The SFCWMA utilized the social worker training of one of the Forest Service employees to bring together and work with chosen students from the Mountain Home High School in a summer weed awareness/environmental work group. Five students were involved in various projects throughout the summer. One of the main projects was the "Bug Corrals" that were assembled in the Prairie area on dense infestations of Knapweed. In co-operation with a private landowner an area was chosen to set up two bug corrals to keep bio control agents in and cattle out. The goal is to create an insectory that will provide bio control agents for use to other landowners and agencies Participating in the SFCWMA. The YCC group assembled the corrals, collected Bio control agents, released and monitored them over the summer. The kids refer to the bio bugs affectionately as "Cy" (Cypho-

Cleonus Achates) and "Lari" (Larinus Minutus). Mountain Home Ranger District and Elmore County Weed Control also collected bio control agents on additional occasions with the opportunity to learn and work with Rob Progar. These bugs were also released into the corrals with hopes of bringing up the population for better chances of over winter survival. We are hoping for great results in the spring.

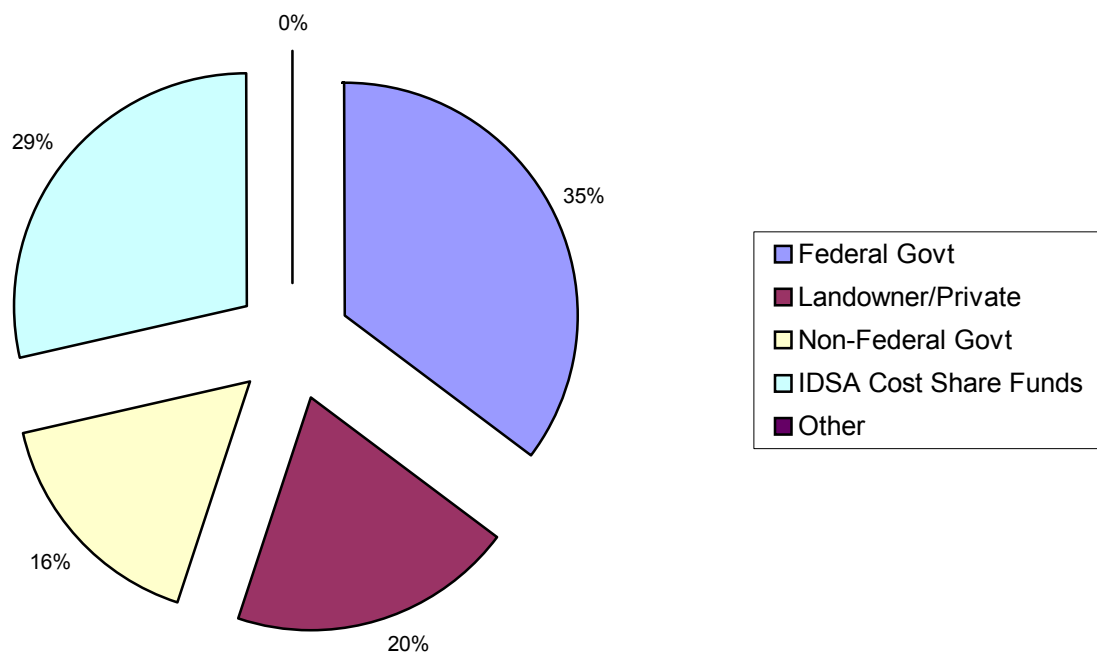
Leafy Spurge beetles were also collected and released on the South Fork of the Boise River by this group in a patch of Leafy Spurge that is difficult to access. The patch is located on the south side of the river and the crew was required to float across the river to access the release site. It is hoped that the biological agents will become established in the site and reduce Leafy Spurge density. Mir Seyedbagheri from U. of I. Elmore Extension/Elmore County Weed Control took the group to an area known to have Rush Skeletonweed bio controls where they were taught the identification of the Rust, Mite, and Midge bio's that were present. They were taught how to collect, transport and release bios in other RSW infested areas. Several days were spent on collecting bios and taking them to higher country for release. Bio control agents were released along roads on National Forest Lands that receive high recreational use. It is hoped that the bio agents will reduce Rush Skeletonweed densities and prevent further spread.



Contributions and Expenditures for the South Fork CWMA

The following pie chart shows a breakdown of cash funds, contributed time, equipment and supplies for the South Fork CWMA for 2003. Total contributions for the year were \$23,647.00. A portion of the cash funds - \$1,632.00 - were carryover funds from 2002 and are included in Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture (ISDA) Cost Share Funds.

South Fork CWMA - 2003 Contribution Chart



APPENDIX 1 - STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mir Seyedbagheri 587-2136	Elmore Extension Office 535 E. Jackson St. Mountain Home, ID 83647	
Stacie Prow 587-2136, 252	Elmore County Weed Control 535 E. Jackson St. Mountain Home, ID 83647	
Tina Ruffing 7867	Mountain Home Ranger District 2180 American Legion Blvd. Mountain Home, ID 83647	587-
Cindy Lancaster 587-7870	Mountain Home Ranger District 2180 American Legion Blvd. Mountain Home, ID 83647	
John Shelly 764-3202	Fairfield Ranger District P.O. Box 189 Fairfield, ID 83327	
Bill Davison 3242	1987 Prairie Road Prairie, ID 83647	868-
Ron Davison	HC 84 Box 56 Mountain Home, ID 83647	454-7475
Steve Percy 4699	P.O. Box 248 Mountain Home, ID 83647	587-

Dean Johnson
3488

Idaho Department of Lands

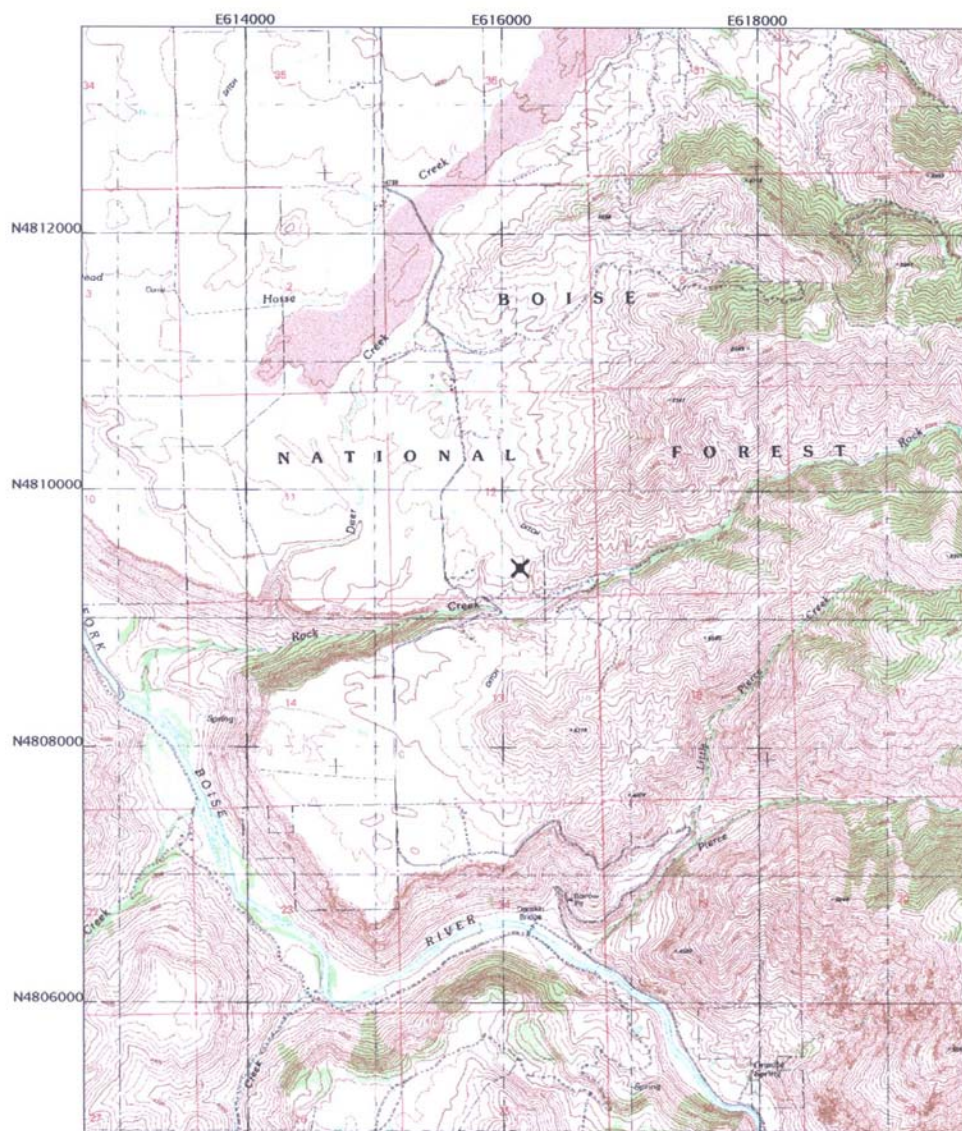
334-

3855 W. State St. Boise, ID 83703

Appendix 11

Category	Weed Species	Acres Treated	
Revegetation		0	
Treated	Leafy Spurge	10	
	Spotted Knapweed	38	
	Misc. weeds	2	
	Whitetop	5	
	Rush Skeletonweed	18	
	Misc. weeds	2	
Biological Releases	Rush Skeletonweed	375	
	Leafy spurge	5	
	Spotted Knapweed	10	
Public Contacts	N/A	350	
GPS/GIS Mapping		Acres Surveyed	Acres Mapped
	Leafy Spurge	100	15
	Spotted Knapweed	150	26
	Whitetop	50	0
	Rush skeletonweed	100	0

APPENDIX 111- MAPS



**Larinus minutus and Cyphocleonus achates @ Rock
Creek bug corrals**

UTM
11 North
NAD 1927 (Western US)



Scale 1:50,000



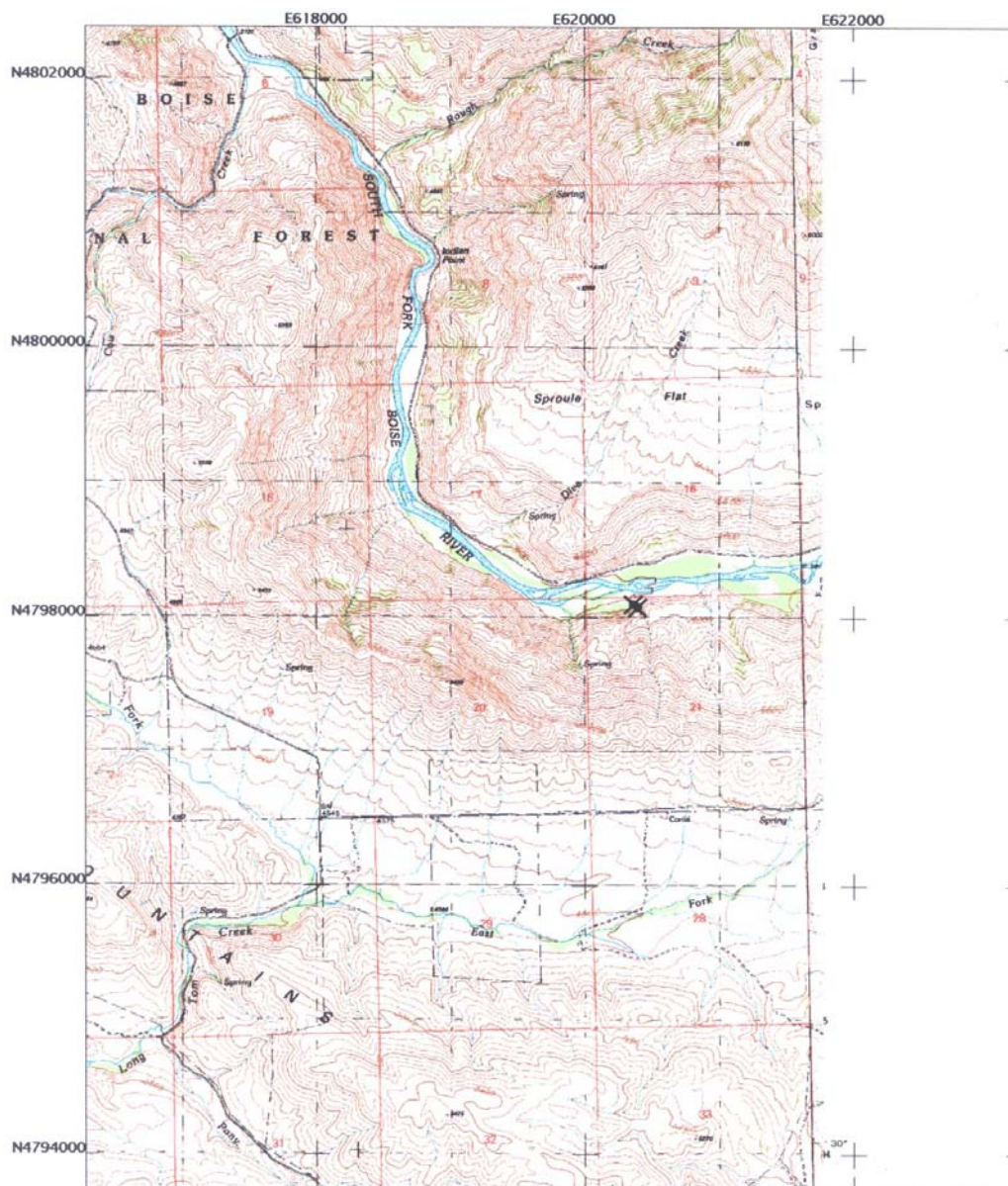
Feet

Multiple Files

8/18/2003

GPS Pathfinder[®] Office





Aphthona nigriscutis and Aphthona lacertosa on Leafy Spurge across from Sproule Flat/Dive Creek

UTM
11 North
NAD 1927 (Western US)



Scale 1:50,000



Feet

Multiple Files

7/9/2003

GPS Pathfinder[®] Office

